伊藤真美

MAMI ITOU

DARKSTAL[redacted]

malefi[redacted]um

MANGA: VIDEO GAME/FANTASY
UP $12.05

DARKSTALKERS / RED EARTH

maleficarum

DARKSTALKERS™/RED EARTH™: MALEFICARUM is video game mayhem at its Darkest!

The sexy, seductress and vicious vampires known as the *DARKSTALKERS* burst out of Twilight as Morrigan, Lilith, Demitri, Felicia, Jedah, and more battle for control of the demon dimension!

Plus, experience the [illegible] a unique, fantasy world of ninjas, [illegible] dinosaurs, knights, and [illegible] very comic!

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UDON

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ARTIST COMMENT

MAMI ITOU

"I was pretty relieved when things started to come together...

...and then there was Morrigan."

STORY & ART BY

MAMI ITOU

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SO THE RUMORS THAT BELIAL HAS RECENTLY TAKEN A SUCCUBUS INTO HIS CARE ARE TRUE?
YES MILORD
HE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN QUITE A SHINE TO HER AS WELL
QUITE UNUSUAL THAT SUCH A LOWLY DREAM DEMON SHOULD HOLD MORE THAN A PASSING INTEREST FOR HIM
Somewhere in the latter half of the 16th century A.D. By the reckoning of man.
I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE THAT HIS SENILITY IS TRULY GETTING TO HIM.
Deep inside Belial's Palace within Aeraland territory in Makai
HOWEVER
I DID NOT COME ALL THIS WAY TODAY--
--TO INQUIRE AFTER OUR DEAR OVERLORD'S HEALTH OVER A PLEASANT CUP OF TEA
UNDERSTAND?
YES MILORD
RUMBLE
VAMPIRE SAVIOR

AS I AM SURE YOU ARE BOTH WELL AWARE
THE TIME FOR PEACEFUL TALKS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE...
...MAKAI IS QUICKLY COMING TO AN END
I SEE...
I HAVE SHE'LL LET'S HAVE LITTLE CHOICE NOW THAT THE DIFFICULT TASK OF THE PORTAL HAS BEEN PLACED BEFORE US
TWITCH
IF YOU HAVE BEEN SPYING ON ALL OF MY INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU WILL NO DOUBT PROVIDE DO BASHFUL TO ATTEND THE MAIN EVENT OF THE EVENING

VOSH
SPLASH
SHH
HH
KSSH
KSSH
KSSH
KSSH
A little over 300 years later
P Present day
S Somewhere at the edges of Maka, in unclaimed territory
I SHALL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE...
I CANNOT ALLOW THIS STATE OF CHAOS TO CONTINUE.

NO LONGER SHALL THERE BE A BALANCE TO KEEP
ALL THAT EXISTS SHALL BE SAVED
GOD
TOGETHER INTO ONE GREAT SOUL
TO BE IN HARMONY
KOOSH
FLIP
WOOSH
SQUISH
SPLUT
SPLUT

KOOSH
IRKSOME PESTS

AWAKEN, MORRIGAN AENSLAND!!
Tsuuuu
Mmm
Mmm
PRE-POSTER-OUS!
DOES SHE STILL SLEEP!?
CON-TEMPT-IBLE WENCH!
YOU SHOULD LEARN THE MEANING OF SHAME!
Oh?
DEMI-TRI MAXI-MOFF I DID NOT REALIZE YOU WERE VISITING US AGAIN
Erm..
LONG TIME NO SEE
I THINK ?

HUH..?
WHAT DID I OVER SLEEP OR SOMETHING?
FOR WELL OVER 150 DAYS, YES!
IF YOU WERE ANY OTHER SUCCUBUS I IMAGINE YOU WOULD HAVE WASTED AWAY INTO NOTHINGNESS BY NOW
I WAS JUST...
SO SLEEPY
I DON'T KNOW WHY
I FEEL LIKE I WAS HAVING THIS...
REALLY CRAZY DREAM
I want to go back...
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER IT...
I'M STILL SLEEPY...
WAM
ENOUGH!
DO NOT MAKE ME DRAG YOU FROM YOUR BED!!

LOOK AT YOURSELF, MORTAL!
I EXPECT THE MASTER OF HOUSE AENSLAND TO BE WORTHY OF DEFEAT AT MY HANDS! I WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS!!
MUST I ALWAYS REMIND YOU?
HEK
NEITHER ONE OF US CURRENTLY HOLDS MAKAI FULLY WITHIN OUR GRASP!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? FACE ME!!
AM NOT NIGHEO!
HEY! COULD YOU PLEASE STOP BUSTING UP MY HOUSE !?
FLIT
FLIT
FLIT
I GROW BORED OF YOUR EGO TRIPS, DEMITRI.
FLIT
FLIT
SWOOSH
!!
SWOOSH

HOW DO YOU EVEN FIND THE TIME TO VISIT ME SO OFTEN?
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE I DON'T WANT TO BE OVERLORD OF MAKAI OR WHATEVER!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO US BOTH A FAVOR AND GO PARK YOUR BIG BUTT ON THE THRONE?
SEE? PROBLEM SOLVED EVERYONE'S HAPPY!
DO NOT MOCK ME!!
FWOOSH
FIRE
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS SUCH THINGS!
THE OTHER NOBLES WOULD NOT STAND FOR SUCH AN AFFRONT TO TRADITION!!
THUMB
BOOM

YOU ARE THE MASTER OF HOUSE AENSLAND WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO ACCEPT YOUR ROLE AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES IT ENTAILS!
YOU MUST FACE ME IN A PROPER BATTLE AND FALL!!
I WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS!

YOU'RE TOO UPTIGHT
YOU BORE ME
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE
OKAY?
TELL ME HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE TRIED TO BEAT EACH OTHER UP IN THE PAST FEW DECADES? SO MANY IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY
AND OF THOSE LITTLE SKIRMISHES HOW MANY ENDED IN ONE OF US BEING MORTALLY WOUNDED? NONE EXACTLY
THAT WILL NOT DO
TAK
BESIDES
WOULDN'T ANYTHING MORE JUST BE POINTLESS?
AT THIS POINT I THINK WE KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER THAN WE KNOW OURSELVES
ME? SETTLE THINGS WITH YOU?
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!

YOU COULDN'T EVEN BRING YOURSELF TO KILL ME WHILE I SLEPT
PAT PAT
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE RULER OF MAKAI
JAK!
I WAS MERELY EXTENDING THE COURTESY OF FAIRNESS TO YOU
THIS IS THE THANKS I GET?
SKOFF
SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY PATHETIC EXCUSE TO ME!
CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL

ANYWAY...
THIS WHOLE CRAZED PASSION THING YOU HAVE ABOUT THE THRONE OF MAKAI...
I HAVE TO ADMIT, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IT
BUT YOU KNOW...
...I'VE RECENTLY STARTED TO THINK OF IT AS AN ADMIRABLE TRAIT OF YOURS
WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS...?
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD LIVE TO HEAR A SINCERE COMPLIMENT FALL FROM YOUR LIPS
I KNOW
WEIRD, HUH?

WHY MORIGAN
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I'D SAY YOU WERE ENVIOUS OF ME
HA! HA!
WHAT AN AMUSING THOUGHT
ENVIOUS ?
REALLY?
I WONDER
IS THIS WHAT "ENVY" FEELS LIKE..?
FUK
THAT SEEMS TO BE THE ONE THING THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN JUST OUT OF REACH FOR YOU
HASNT IT?
HEH HEH
CASTOR

!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
!?
DEMITRI
WHAT WAS THAT ?
I THINK
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO YOUR CASTLE ?
THAT IS IF YOU CAN
!!?
RUMBLE

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE ...!?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WE'RE BEING MOVED BETWEEN DIMENSIONS ? IT'S TAKING THE WHOLE CASTLE !?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

BLOP
BLOP
MORRIGAN...
I WILL ASK YOU ONE FINAL TIME...
WHY DID YOU MASSACRE SO MANY OF YOUR FELLOW SUCCUBI!?
BECAUSE BELIAL
THOS SUCCUBI LIED TO ME! THAT'S ALL THEY EVER DID
THEY WOULD PICK ON ME AND WERE MEAN TO ME FOR NO REASON
I JUST WANTED TO GET BACK AT THEM
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG
IT'S NOT MY FAULT THEY WEREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE
BELIAL ...WHY ARE THE OTHERS SO WEAK?
THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE ME
GGALE

ZZG
ZZG
ZZG
ZZG
POP
POP
POP
HUFF HUFF HUFF
GASP GASP HUFF GASP
GASP GASP
GASP
GASP HUFF
HUFF
AM I, BELIAL
AM I SPECIAL?
!!
FORGIVE ME... DOING THIS HAS ALSO DIVIDED YOUR SOUL BUT THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
I MUST SEAL THIS PORTION OF YOUR POWERS AWAY...
I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO BE CONSUMED BY THESE POWERS AS YOUR PHYSICAL BODY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE STRESS
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DIVIDE YOUR POWERS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD
MORRIGAN... YOUR POWERS HAVE GROWN TOO STRONG FOR YOU THEY HAVE BECOME A THREAT

MORRIGAN_
SLORHOTEP
HUH
WHAT WAS THAT ?
?
I WANT TO GO BACK
SO WARM
AN INTRUDER ?
THERE A

THIS WHOLE LEVEL OF THE CASTLE THE COCYTUS WAS SEALED OFF AFTER BELIAL'S DEATH
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
WHO ARE YOU?

I WAS TAKING A MOMENT TO ENJOY THE FEELING OF NOSTALGIA THAT WASHED OVER ME AT THE SIGHT OF THESE FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS
BUT I AM DONE NOW
SO THE SUCCUBUS WHO WAS GRANTED THE HONOR OF BEARING THE AENSLAND NAME...
WAS THIS YOUR BRILLIANT PLAN, BELIAL ?
KRAM

JEDAH
GRRR
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M SENSING A STRONG PRESENCE EMERGED FROM THIS CURSED DIMENSION
ZG
BOH
ZG
ZG
!?
I CAN FEEL THE PRESSURE OF AN OVERWHELMING POWER
COULD IT BE ...?
HAS THE LORD OF DOHMA RE-TURNED ...?
JEDAH..
HES THE ONE WHO FREED ME

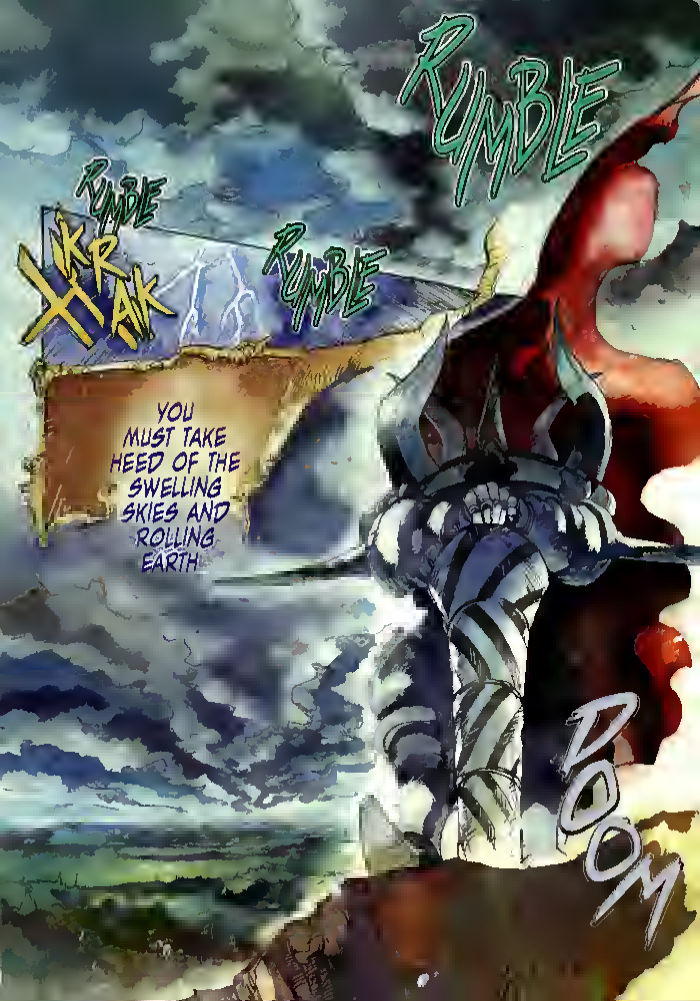
SHE'S CALLING OUT TO YOU
SLASH
SWOOP
WHAT IS THIS POWER?
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
!?
IT'S LIKE I'M BEING PULLED BY A DIFFERENT FORCE!
DON'T LET ME FALL!
ME SAID
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID. HE SAID, WE'RE ALL GOING TO BECOME ONE
MORRIGAN!
YOU KNOW ME VERY WELL
I WANT TO KNOW WHO I AM.
NO!
WHO ARE YOU?

CAN YOU HEAR HER?
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THE HOLE WITHIN YOUR SOUL IS NOTHING BUT A MIMICRY OF THIS DYING WORLD
I HAVE COME TO BRING ORDER AND HARMONY BACK TO MAKAI
NOT KILL NO I PLAN ON JOINING ALL SOULS TO MAKE THEM ONE
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T COME HERE... TO KILL ME...?
HEARS HER VOICE
SPLASH
SPLASH

AH, GOD HAND!
THE LORD OF HOUSE DOHMA
GREAT. ANOTHER FOOL FOR ME TO DEAL WITH
Salvation..?
Wait.. I remember
Drip Drip
WITH THE BEATING OF MY HEART I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT! HOW THRILLING!
MY BREAST IS BURNING
CAN YOU HEAR IT?
DEMIT!
Shhh
IT FEELS SO GOOD
Hmm?
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS PARTY IS JUST GETTING STARTED
LILITH! WHO IS THAT?
HOLE IN MY SOUL ?
...WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
BRINGS SALVATION
OH, I CAN DO THAT
YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND RIGHT AWAY!
FIGHTING
FIGHTING
THE SOUL OF AESGLAND SHALL MAKE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR MY "DIVINE VESSEL"
SOON
YOU AND LILITH SHALL BOTH PLAY YOUR PARTS

Living an eternity in a place where nothing ever changes...
Isn't that the most terrifying thing of all?
The process of salvation has only just begun...
The jaws of the soul's cage have not yet shut...
All "VALUABLE SOULS" must be herded along their path to feed the hunger.
END

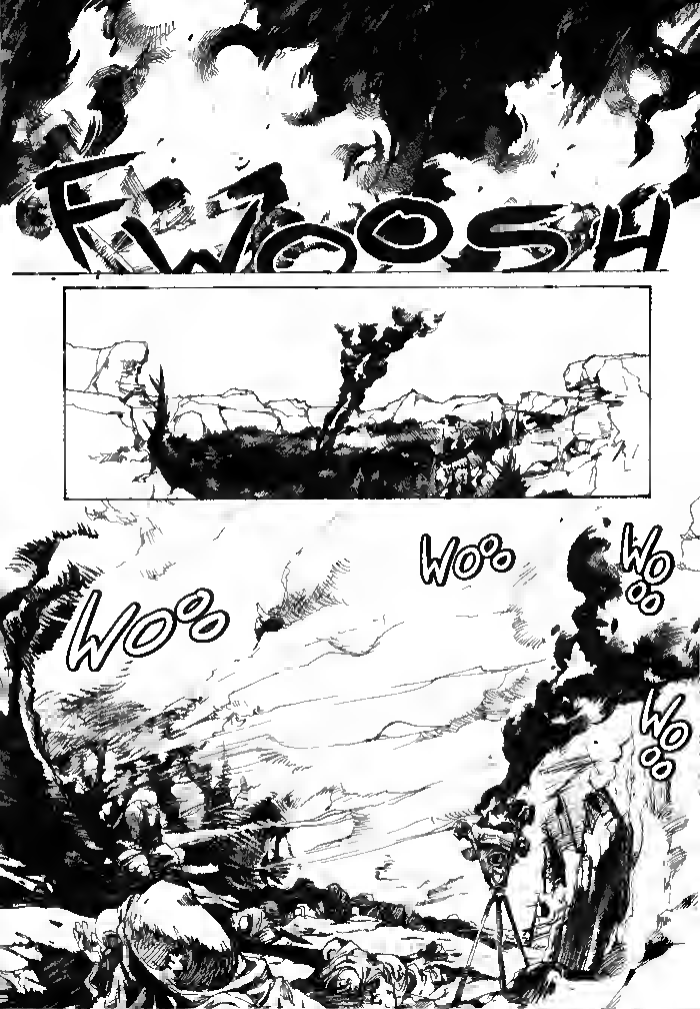
RUMBLE
Ow
Every day, this dark energy gets stronger.
It's just a feeling, but it
Meow
Something big's going to happen.


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
KRAK
RUMBLE
YOU MUST TAKE HEED OF THE SWELLING SKIES AND ROLLING EARTH
BOOM

R
O
A
R
The kingdom of Sevalia had been devastated by tragedy.
Leo, the lord of the realm, had been cursed, abased, and exiled.
The countrymen trembled with great sorrow.
The very land had lost its color.
OH, OUR BELOVED KING! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
MY LIEGE!

GROWL
GROWL
GROWL
GROWL
GROWL
GROWL
YOUR MAJESTY
DO NOT DESPAIR
WE THREE WISE MEN SHALL RETURN YOU TO YOUR HUMAN FORM. THOUGH IT MAY COST US OUR VERY LIVES THIS WE PROMISE YOU
ROAR

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WE ARE THE WISE MEN OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVALIA
WE ARE BARO, BIGO, AND BISUTSU!
WE HEREBY COMMENCE THE 120-DAY RITUAL!
WE OFFER OUR LIVES UP FOR OUR KING, WITH DEEPEST DEVOTION!
HOLD US WITHIN YOUR WATCHFUL GAZE, MY LORD!!


FWOOSH
WOO
WOO
WOO
WOO

WHAT SOR-CERY IS THIS ...!?
NO...

GROAN
GROOAAN
WE HAVE FAILED YOU..!
EVEN WITH THE FAITH OF 100 MEN...
WE HAVE FALLEN WITHOUT FULFILLING OUR OATH...
YOU!
YOU ARE THE PHILOSOPHER OF KNOWLEDGE... BISUTSU !!
BISUTSU!
TELL ME...
WHAT HAS HAPPENED !?
I RECALL NOTHING!
FORGIVE US, MY KING!

IT ALL BEGAN THE DAY THE ARMY CLAIMING TO BE FROM THE EMPIRE OF VALDA INVADED SAVALIA
YOU WERE CURSED TRANSFORMED INTO A WILD BEAST, AND DRIVEN FROM OUR KINGDOM
SINCE THEN, OUR COUNTRYMEN HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY UNDER THE IRON FIST OF VALDA THEY LIVE THEIR DAYS IN FEAR, MY LORD
OH...
OUR MOST BE-LOVED KING!
AVENGE OUR PEOPLE MAY YOU SUCCEED WHERE WE HAVE FAILED..
AND
BRING A NEW FUTURE.. TO THE LAND OF SAVALIA..
BISUTSU!!

ROOOAAAR
FAP
UH
BRO..!!
BRO..!!
MY COUNTERGIL, YOUR SACRIFICE HAS BEEN TOO GREAT!
I SHALL AVENGE YOU..!!

EVERY DAY I OPEN THIS BOOK AND EVERY DAY THERE ARE NEW ABNORMALITIES BEING REPORTED ALL OVER THE WORLD
NO REST FOR THE WICKED I SUPPOSE
TAK
THERE HAS BEEN AN UNNATURAL ENERGY ENGULFING THE ENTIRE WORLD SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR THIS FACT IS INDISPUTABLE
IT IS ALSO FACT THAT THERE ARE NUMBER OF WARS BREAKING OUT BETWEEN DIFFERENT RULING BODIES WHICH DO NOT SEEM TO BE BASED ON ANY LOGICAL REASONING OR MERIT
WHAT IF_
WHAT IF ONE INCONCEIVABLY LARGE POWER WAS AT THE SOURCE OF ALL OF THESE OCCURRENCES?
WHAT IF SOMETHING OR SOMEONE, WAS INTENTIONALLY CAUSING THESE THINGS TO HA[illegible]EN?

POUNCE
SHOVE!
SKREETCH
DING
MEOW
I WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE TODAY
PLEASE PASS MY MESSAGE ON TO THE CHAIRMAN
LADY TESSA !!
WHAT!?
SKREETCH
FLAP FLAP
HOW DARE YOU, YOU MISERABLE CAT!?
SKREETCH
FLAP FLAP
ATTACK ME LIKE THAT AGAIN, AND I SWEAR I WILL PULL YOUR WHISKERS OUT ONE BY ONE !!
MEOW
SILENCE
SHUT THAT ANNOYING BEAK OF YOURS WONT YOU!?

GOOD MORNING ...
LADY TESSA!
KIANK
KIANK
FLAP FLAP
EARLY PREPARATION IS RECOMMENDED!!
YOU HAVE A SORCERERY-OLOGY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED AT NOON TODAY!
T/K
THE SOURCE OF THIS "POWER"
NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING WORTH LOOKING INTO
AW
AL!
THE MOST PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES WILL BE GATHERED TO HEAR YOU SPEAK!!
YOU MUST NOT BE LATE TODAY!

I AM LEAVING ON A LITTLE TRIP I MAY BE GONE FOR A WHILE
THE MANAGEMENT OF MY MANSION WILL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY WHILE I AM AWAY
Poof
Poof

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND I'M AFRAID I SIMPLY CANNOT LET THIS BE
Poof
Poof
Poof

DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
THE VILLAGERS!
MY VILLAGE
RUN
ZOOM
LADY TESSA!!
ALI IVAN!!
GRAB
T.O.
DASH
COME ALONG!
TADA

EVERY-
BODY'S
GONE...
HELLO
!?
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

GKREEE
ROAR
HEH HEH HEH HEH
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
!!!

!!!
THUD
YOU ARE THE LEGENDARY DRAGON, SAID TO APPEAR WHENEVER THIS LAND IS IN TURMOIL!
HAUZER!!
WHAT MANNER OF EVIL HAS POSSESSED MY LAND!?

CHARGE-

WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE VILLAGERS!?
TAK
SHKYUU-KYAKOU!!
FWAM
K
K

VASH
ZOOF
VASH
Where is the wind of "truth"?
A vile wind
called "deception"
A wind blows through my soul...

DARKSTALKERS™/ RED EARTH™

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RED EARTH
STORY II

RUMBLE

WOW!
HOW ABSURD!!
IS IT A FOOLISH HUMAN WHO IS BEING LURED BY THE POWER OF MY EMPIRE?
I SHALL TEST THIS NEW CHALLENGER!
RUMBLE
I FEEL THE EMERALD WITHIN MY CHEST STIRRING
IS THERE AN ENEMY ADVANCING ON MY EMPIRE?

DRIP
YOUR MAJESTY
YOU FOUGHT MOST VALIANTLY, YOUR MAJESTY

YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP IN DEFEATING THE LEGENDARY DRAGON WAS A WONDER TO BEHOLD
WISE MEN!
ARISE, MY KING!
HOWEVER! WE FEAR YOU ARRIVED TOO LATE OUR TRUE ENEMY HAS ALREADY LEFT THESE LANDS!
...!!
ALWAYS!
WE ARE WITH YOU
THOUGH OUR MORTAL COILS MAY HAVE EXPIRED, WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WATCHING OVER YOU

HM...
As I suspected, the mysterious fleet of black ships have been sighted in each troubled region, and their arrival coincides with the reported anomalies
I shall return to these lands on day!
Upon my honor!!
My kingdom... Savalia!!
RUSTLE
OH, HOW TERRIBLE IT WAS! COULD THIS TRULY BE THE ACTIONS OF A HUMAN?
ANY WHO RESISTED WERE CUT DOWN WITHOUT MERCY
OURS IS NOT THE ONLY KINGDOM THEY ATTACKED WITH THEIR FLEET OF DARK FLYING SHIPS!
WE FEAR THAT THEY HAVE A LARGER, MORE SINISTER PLAN!!
THEY WERE TAKEN AS PRISONERS !!
THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR ABSENCE AND TOOK YOUR SUBJECTS FROM THE CASTLE.
THE DEEDS OF THIS ENEMY EMPIRE ARE TRULY TERRIFYING!

THEY HAVE LAID SIEGE TO AND CONQUERED KINGDOM AFTER KINGDOM
BUT IT SEEMS THERE IS ONE PLACE THAT HAS ESCAPED THIS FATE
FAR TO THE SOUTH OF HERE... A LARGE KINGDOM
SANGVYPT
TADA
THIS WILL BE MY NEXT DESTINATION
VOOSH
KRAK
!?

AN ATTACK !?
flop
SPLASH
AAIIEEEEEE !!
!!
WHAT WAS THAT... !?
RUSH

NO!
PLEASE SAVE MY GRAND-DAUGHTER! SAVE MY MAMURU!!
SOMEONE!
AIEEEE!!
FOM.
FOOSH
SHUNK
KSHK
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
TRICKLE
EDGE

SPLASH
HSSS
STAB
!
MAMURU!!
FLOP
SPLASH
SPLASH

WOW
WHAT A HUGE CITY!
THIS IS WHERE THEY ARE KEEPING YOUR LITTLE BROTHER FUMITO?
YEAH
THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES GATHERED HERE
THEY FORCED US TO BUILD THIS BIG CREEPY ROCK
WE HAVE TO RESCUE EVERYONE SOON IM WORRIED ABOUT MURAKUI

SNIFFLE
MAI-LING
OKAY!
LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL THE BAD GUYS!
FUHITO, YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO YOUR LITTLE BROTHER!
BUT ...MAI-LING !!
MURAKU! EVERY-ONE!!
THE BIGGEST BAD GUY (THE IMPORTANT ONE) IS PROBABLY IN THAT HUGE BUILDING !!
MY MY
YOU HAVE CERTAINLY TRAVELED A LONG WAY, HAVEN'T YOU?
HEH
HEH HEH HEH HEH

THE FAMOUS LADY TESSA, THE "UNPARALLELED SORCERER-OLOGIST OF ICELARN"
YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU
I AM HUMBLED
AS SUCH I HAVE DECIDED TO GRANT YOU THE HONOR OF GREETING YOU MYSELF
NOW THEN
WELCOME TO SANGYPT
DO YOU HAVE PRESSING BUSINESS HERE?
HEH-HEH IT MUST BE VERY SERIOUS INDEED!
I WOULD NOT WANT TO RUSH OUR SPECIAL GUEST
COME TO MY THRONE ROOM AND I SHALL GRANT YOU AN AUDIENCE SO THAT YOU MIGHT TELL ME YOUR TALE IN PROPER FASHION
YOU ARE MOST GRACIOUS, CLARA TANTRA

KLANG
YOU THERE! HALT !!
KLANG
NONE MAY ENTER HERE WITHOUT THE QUEEN'S PERMISSION !!
STARTLE

THE EMPIRE OF... VALDA?
I AM SURPRISED THAT YOU HAVE ALIGNED YOURSELF WITH THIS UNFAMILIAR EMPIRE...
THIS IS THE FIRST I HAVE HEARD OF SUCH NEWS
HEH-HEH I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HIDING IT
INDEED THE NUMEROUS CONQUESTS YOU SPEAK OF WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE "BLACK SHIPS" OF THE VALDA EMPIRE
THE EMPEROR OF VALDA IS A VERY POWERFUL MAN I MERELY AGREED THAT UNITING THIS WORLD UNDER HIS CAPABLE RULE WOULD BE A WORTHY VENTURE
I MUST ADMIT I AM NOT PLEASED WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION
NOW THAT YOU KNOW ALL THIS SORCERER-OLOGIST WHAT WILL YOU DO?
!!
WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER USING YOUR BRILLIANT MIND TO AID OUR PURPOSE?

HOW DARE YOU DISTURB US!? WHAT IS IT!?
DASH!
IF YOU WERE TO JOIN OUR ALLIANCE, DOMINATING THIS WORLD WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER, WOULD IT NOT?
A WILD, BEAST-FACED BRUTE HAS JUST FORCED HIS WAY INTO THE CASTLE!!
WELL...
MY QUEEN!! FORGIVE ME FOR INTRUDING!
WE TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE OVERPOWERED OUR MEN! HE DEMANDS AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU, MY QUEEN!
DRAMA~
YOU WILL WAIT HERE, SORCERER-OLOGIST
I SHALL RETURN SHORTLY!
HE INSISTS THAT HE IS THE KING OF SAVALIA, AND WILL NOT LISTEN TO REASON!
IS THAT SO?

!!
ARE YOU SURPRISED TO SEE ME AGAIN, CLARA TANTRA!?
UGH! HOW HIDEOUS YOU ARE!!
I RECOGNIZE YOU AS KING LEO OF SAVALIA SAID TO HAVE BEEN CURSED WITH THE FORM OF A BEAST BY THE POWERS OF THE EMPIRE
MURKUR
HOW DOES A FORMER KING INTEND TO EXPLAIN THIS MOST UNTOWARD CONDUCT !?
MURKUR
!!
Half man, half beast!
The curse must have been MOST powerful!
THE TRAIL OF THE BLACK SHIPS LED ME HERE.
TANTRA, DO YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVIL POWER THAT ATTACKED MY KINGDOM?

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SPEAKING TO DEFEATED FOES!
UNCIVILIZED BEASTS SUCH AS YOURSELF BELONG IN THE WILDS!
DASH
!!
YOU OFFEND ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE! BEGONE !!
SORCERER-OLOGIST
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?
I FIND THIS PLACE TO BE MOST UNPLEASANT
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR EARLIER OFFER
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I SHALL NOW TAKE MY LEAVE

DUN DUN
ZKT
ZK
!!
WHAT IS THIS DARK ENERGY!?
!!
IT CAN'T BE!!
DUN DUN
FLASH
ZK
ZKT
ZK
DUN DUN
I WAS UNABLE TO GAIN ANY SATISFACTORY RESULTS HERE
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT
FOOL!
I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD BE WISER THAN THIS!

WAM
!!
ARE YOU A SORCER-ESS?
YES INDEED I AM KING OF SAVALIA
I WONDER WHAT ALL THE COMMOTION IS ABOUT
RUN
KRASH
THUD
FWOOSH
FLASH
AHH
AHH
AHH
ARRRGH

AS A KING, I MUST NOT FALL TO THE POWERS OF EVIL SORCERY
I WILL DEAL WITH THIS FOE!
YOU NEED NOT INTERVENE
UNDERSTOOD!
CHANGE
YAH!!
SLASH

DARKSTALKERS™ / RED EARTH™

maleficarum

Aaah!
Aaah!
RUN
RUN
RUN
RED EARTH
STORY III
KRAAK
Aaah!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
KRAAK
!
IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE!

KRA
KLANK
CLANK
FLAK
STOMP

RROOAAR
SLICE
SLICE
SWING
SHREEK

TRASH
SPLAT
SCREECH
I WILL SEND YOUR TWISTED SOUL TO MEET ITS MAKER!
COME, TANTRA!
But you must still be cautious King of Savalia.
Your enemy is now heavily wounded

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHY IS RAVANGE HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE FINISHING OFF ONE LITTLE CREATURE...?
T!
KE
ASH!
RUMBLE
THIS IS NOT WHAT OUR MASTER GRANTED HER POWERS FOR! THE USELESS WRETCH
TANTRA WAS A FOOL!
LEO...
...AND THAT SORCERESS TESSA
RUMBLE

DO YOU FEEL THAT?
WHAT IS IT
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
CRUMBLE
RUMBLE
CRUMBLE
!?
!?
FLOOR
RUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
SURAPE

RUMBLE
A BLACK SHIP!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT MOUNTAIN!
THAT IS ONE OF VALDA'S BLACK SHIPS... --!?
RUMBLE
SKREECH
KRAK
KRAK
SKREECH

SK
BA-MO'
WHAT!?
...!?
FWAM
MY LORD!!
IT IS COMING!
YOU MUST EVADE !!
FWOOM
KWOOM

BEEP
KRASH
ZHA ZHA
ROAR
ROAR
ZHA ZHA!!
OPEN THE GUNPORT
WHAT IS A GIRL FROM THE EASTERN LANDS OF YOKA DOING HERE?
ARE YOU A SLAVE?
HUH? NO!
THOSE CLOTHES
floop
!

CLARA TANTRA
I OFFER YOU ONLY DEATH
MAY YOU SPEND YOUR TIME IN THE AFTERLIFE REGRETTING YOUR FOOLISHNESS
FWIK
KRASH
DID YOU EXPEND ALL OF YOUR REMAINING ENERGY WITH THAT LAST ATTACK?
YOUR MOVEMENTS HAVE SLOWED!
SKREE
RAVANGE WILL NOT LAST MUCH LONGER
FAILING TO ERADICATE ONE SMALL ENEMY EVEN AFTER RELYING ON MY MASTERS POWERS MAKES HER LIFE FORFEIT!
WE SHALL RID OURSELVES OF THEM BOTH NOW.

WOOM
!!!
ZA
WOSH
MY LORD!!

WOOSH
TADA
WOOSH
WOOSH
SHWA !!
MEOW !!
POP !!
KRASH !!
KRASH
KRASH
KRUMBLE
ORB OF WIND GUARDIAN RAFALE'S BREATH!
SUMMON A POWERFUL WIND TO SAVE US!
I CHARGE THEE!!

RRRRR
WOO
!
GRAB
KREAK
RRRRR
GRIP
SWAK
WOOSH
RUMBLE
GROWL
BOOM
BOOM
WOO
WOO

HA HA HA HA HA HA!
KLANK
KA AK
HOW AMUSING!
MY BELOVED SWORD ADRAYER THIRSTS FOR YOUR BLOOD!!
CLIMB ABOARD, LEO!
TAK
Pull
!!

THE WIND IS FADING..
WOO
AT THIS RATE, WE WILL FALL TO OUR DEATHS
BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ALTITUDE TO REACH THE SHIP
GIRL FROM GORA DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
WOOSH
'DA TEN!!
'DA TEN!!
'DA TEN!!
STOMP
HOLD ON TIGHT!
HERE WE GO..
SORRY FOR STEPPING ON YOUR BAG!

FADE
FADE
HUH-
OH...
NO
I can't reach!
WE'RE SO CLOSE!
STRUGGLE
Toss
KLATTER
!?
THERE!
WHAT'S UP?
Peek

YOU SAVED US, GIRL FROM GORA
MY NAME IS MALING
YOU HAVE OUR THANKS SIR KNIGHT
SSH!
Keep your voice down!
They'll kill you if they find you!
RUMBLE
WAM
KRAK
RUMBLE
!
THE SHIP'S MOVING AGAIN...!
RUMBLE

RUMBLE
I KNOW NOT OF WHOM YOU SPEAK
BLADE ? IS THAT YOU ?
THAT VOICE! YOU ARE BLADE AREN'T YOU?
MY FORMER GUARD CAPTAIN ..!?
YOUR VOICE SOUNDS FAMILIAR TO ME
RUMBLE
SO WHAT'S WITH THE KID?
I...
I CAME TO SAVE THE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING HELD PRISONER AND TO PUNISH THE BAD GUY!
WELL AIN'T YOU JUST THE LITTLEST HERO!
YOU PACK A SERIOUS MAGICAL PUNCH THERE MISS SORCERESS
I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU SNIFFING AROUND THE EMPIRE
WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?
HEH
SO SUE ME
WHY ARE YOU HERE ?
I CAN SMELL BLOOD ON YOU
I DISAPPROVE

WHERE IS THIS BLACK SHIP HEADED, RON-BERUTO?
TO THE CRYPT
TRULY?
BUT WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT FROM THREE THOUSAND-YEAR OLD RUINS?
THE GATE
...!
THE GATE IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WITH A GATE THAT LEADS TO THE VALDA EMPIRE'S MAJESTIC FLOATING CASTLE FORTRESS
DARMANOR!

DARKSTALKERS™/ RED EARTH™

maleficarum

I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
WHY DID YOU SAVE US?
FUNK
FUNK
I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE TOO FUNNY TO LET DIE
Ha ha!
I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO NEXT UP AGAINST THIS MASSIVELY POWERFUL EMPIRE!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
KASH
RED EARTH STORY IV

BLADE
I AM SADDENED TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS
D'D THE OTHERS SHARE A SIMILAR FATE ?
HAVE ALL OF MY EFFORTS THUS FAR BEEN TOO LITTLE TOO LATE!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
!?
YOUR WORDS MEAN NOTHING TO ME
I SERVE ONLY MY MASTER
AND HE DEMANDS MORE SACRIFICES !!
STUNG
ZG
ZG
ZG
FLASH
BLAAADE!!

WOOO
KLANK
THUD
THUD
THUD
RUMBLE
WOO
KLANK
!?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
LOOK!
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE CRYPT ALREADY
ITS MOBILITY ALLOWS US TO TRAVEL ALL OVER THE WORLD THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS WHAT ACTUALLY FUELS THE SHIP
THIS SHIP IS FASTER THAN IT LOOKS
RUMBLE

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHOOF
MWA-HA!!
HA-HA!!
HA-HA!!

MIRROR TRAP!!
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
HMM
HMM
WHAT!?
WHAT IS THIS....!?
IF YOU GUYS WANT TO GET INTO DARMINOR YOU'D BETTER GET OFF THE SHIP NOW!
THE BLACK SHIP CAN ONLY GO IN THIS FAR
EITHER WAY YOU WON'T BE SAFE IF YOU STAY ON THE SHIP ANY LONGER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE
WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO I WISH YOU BOTH THE BEST OF LUCK!
OF COURSE I'M PRETTY SURE ENTERING DARMINOR WOULD MEAN CERTAIN DEATH FOR YOU ANYWAY
EITHER WAY YOU WON'T BE SAFE--
--IF YOU STAY ON THE SHIP ANY LONGER!
RONBERUTO
I DON'T THINK HE WAS A BAD GUY!
SO WHY WOULD HE HELP THE EMPIRE HURT SO INNOCENT PEOPLE?
DOOM

I AGREE
THAT MAN WAS A GOOD MAN WHEN THE EMPIRE CAME TO HIS HOME HE WILLINGLY OFFERED HIMSELF UP TO THE EMPIRE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS PEOPLE
IN HIS HEART HE DEEPLY REGRETS ALL OF THE CRIMES HE HAS COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF THE EMPIRE
SAVING US MUST HAVE BEEN HIS WAY OF MAKING UP FOR SOME OF THE WRONG HE HAS DONE
AT LEAST THAT IS THE TALE HIS EYES TOLD
THUGH
FOOF
. . .
!!
THUD

FOOLISH WORM.
HOW DARE YOU ALLOW ESSA AND THE GIRL TO ENTER THE CASTLE!?
WILL THOSE TWO BE ABLE TO DEFEAT GI GI?
KLUNK
SCOFF
NO DOUBT LEO HAS ALREADY EXPIRED WITHIN THE MIRROR DIMENSION
RUMBLE

MY WORD! I HAVE SEEN IMAGES OF THESE IN ANCIENT TOMES! IT IS A MECHANICAL COMBAT AUTOMATON!! IT MUST BE GUARDING THE GATE TO DARMINOR!
DOOM
SKREEK
DOOM
SKREEK
HOW EXTRAORDINARY! TO THINK THAT THE EMPIRE WIELD ENOUGH POWER TO ACTIVATE ONE OF THESE! I AM MORE INTERESTED THAN EVER IN DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS EMPIRE!
HOW CAN YOU BE IMPRESSED AT A TIME LIKE THIS!? COME ON, WE'D BETTER FINISH HIM OFF QUICK!
DOOM

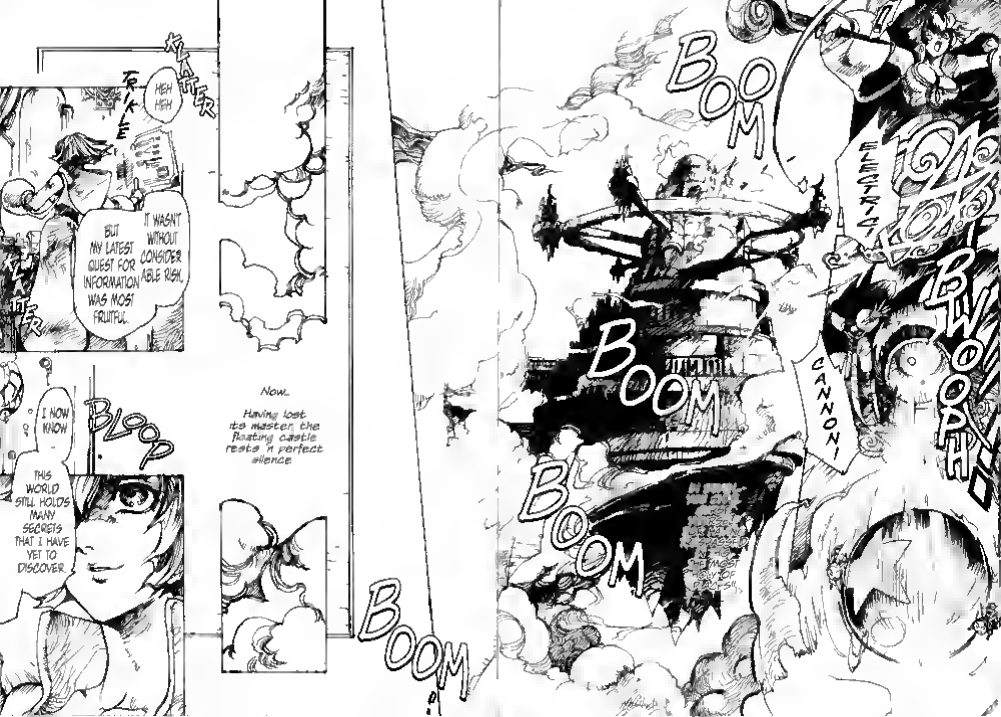
DOOM
THOSE WHO DARE OPPOSE ME...
ALL OF YOU
SHALL FEEL MY WRATH!
DOOM
DIE!!
DOOM
DIE, LEO!!
ROAR
!!
ARE THEY TRULY HUMAN!?
THEIR ARMY IS STRONG!
MY LIEGE!!
BLADE!!
AAH!
THE SNAKES ARMY HAS COME!
THE KING
IS THE KING SAFE!?
AAH!

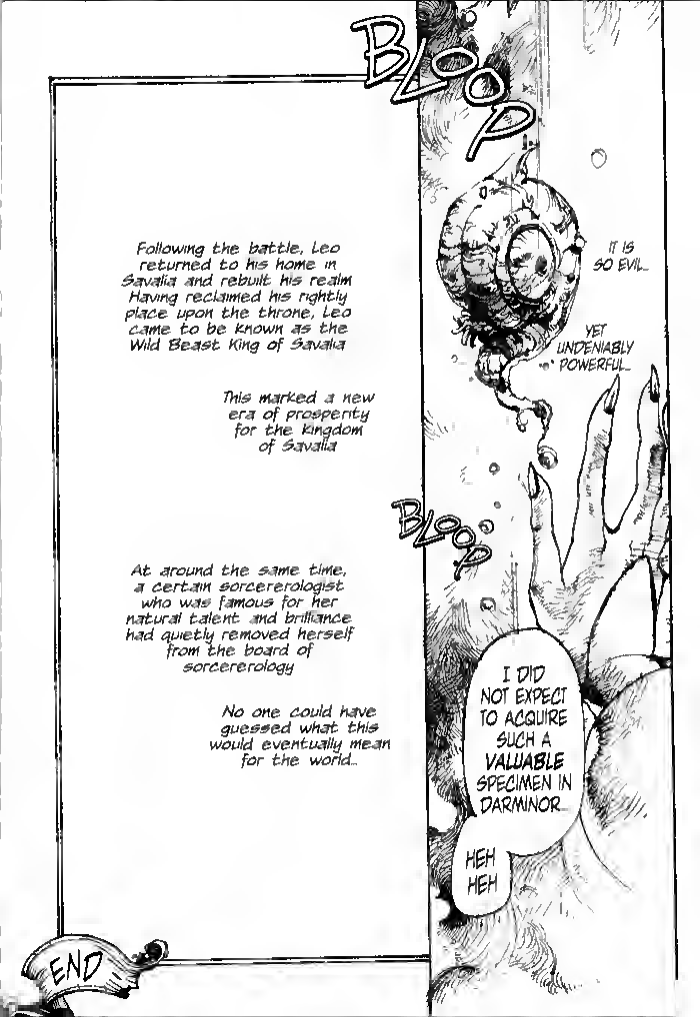
KRAK
KRAK!?
KLANK
THEY'VE DEFEATED SI GI ..... !!
AARRRGGGG!!
BLAADE!!

AAAAHHHH!!
BLADE..
REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND..
!!
GRUNT!!
SCION..
HE IS IN THE CASTLE..
JUST AHEAD..
HE HOPES TO DESTROY ALL LIFE..
TO CREATE..
A..
NEW..
MY KING LEO..
I WAS CURSED WITH THIS VILE FORM BY HIM..
LEO MY TRUE LIEGE..
!!
KRK KRK KRK

ARE YOU THE SOURCE OF THE EMPIRE'S POWER?
I SEE ...
IT SEEMS ANY ATTEMPTS AT INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION WOULD BE LOST ON YOU ...
I AM THE MESSIAH COME TO OFFER SALVATION TO THIS WRETCHED WORLD
ANY WHO DARE OPPOSE ME SHALL COME TO KNOW TRUE FEAR!
SKREECH
I AM SUON
DO YOU SEEK MY WISDOM?
WHY HAVE YOU COME?
HAI-LING!

SU-ON!!
GREAT OH KING OF SAVALIA!
I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU ARE SAFE!
FOOLISH BEING
YOU SHALL REGRET THIS!!

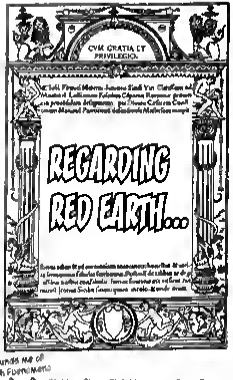

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
ZIGGY!
BWOOPH!
CANNON!
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
TALE
HEH HEH
BUT MY LATEST QUEST FOR INFORMATION WAS MOST FRUITFUL.
IT WASN'T WITHOUT CONSIDER ABLE RISK.
Now...
Having lost its master, the floating castle rests in perfect silence
BLOOP
I NOW KNOW
THIS WORLD STILL HOLDS MANY SECRETS THAT I HAVE YET TO DISCOVER.


Following the battle, Leo returned to his home in Savalia and rebuilt his realm. Having reclaimed his rightly place upon the throne, Leo came to be known as the Wild Beast King of Savalia
This marked a new era of prosperity for the kingdom of Savalia
At around the same time, a certain sorcererologist who was famous for her natural talent and brilliance had quietly removed herself from the board of sorcererology
No one could have guessed what this would eventually mean for the world...
BLOOP
IT IS SO EVIL...
YET UNDENIABLY POWERFUL...
BLOOP
I DID NOT EXPECT TO ACQUIRE SUCH A VALUABLE SPECIMEN IN DARMINOR...
HEH HEH
END

All of her movements are weak and unsteady She looks funny!
No need to concern yourself
Tessa You shouldn't push yourself too hard Why don't you get some rest?
KAFF
KAFF
Tessa has caught a really bad case of the cold that has been going around
You have my gratitude
Well I cooked it up according to your instructions but
Are you sure this will work?
I simply need to consume the medicine derived from this magical herb The mandragora is known for its ability to cure all manner of ailments
I do not think you should consume something that you cannot touch with your bare hands
Just watch
I will be restored in no time
GLUB GLUB GLUB
Medicinal mixtures can be dangerous when attempted by the unskilled
At the time, no one realized that the medicine Keryl has offered in a sincere attempt to help had been the cause of this unexpected reaction
Tessa was bedridden for ten days
Dragon Slit

This was something I drew during the winter when I was down and out for one turn with a heavy case of the flu. To give you an idea of how dead I was I would like to point out that I did not even realize I had drawn Mar-Linge's hat wrong. If I could give you all one piece of advice it would be to take care of your health

Seriously



COMMENT①

I remember having a lot of trouble drawing this Red Earth series. I am writing this message about a year after the fact. As I recall, the game hadn't actually been released yet when I was drawing the first and second chapters. The only chances I had to actually play the game were at a private showing and the AM Show during the autumn... and that was only for a few rounds. So as you might imagine, I didn't really have a firm grasp of the characters, nevermind the very unique world that the whole game takes place in. I knew I absolutely could not get the atmosphere wrong if this was going to work, so I struggled with it and the result was this gritty look. I hope people liked it.

I had to hit the ground running, and didn't really stop until the end. So I feel like I do need to apologize for a few things, especially to Kenji. (lol) But I must say I had a lot of fun with the art style. Possibly because it's so different from what I usually do. I also liked Tessa a lot. I played Tessa during my trials of the game, and that's probably why the story was so Tessa-heavy. (lol) If I had been given more time, I would have tried to mix Leo and Tessa up some more as far as their stories are concerned.

Reminds me of French Fuentimento

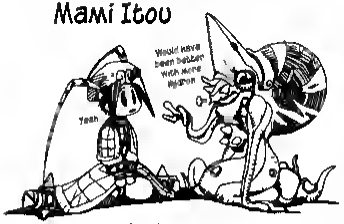
Looked like this, they had different colors, like green and blue

Right after finishing the Red Earth story (literally right after lol) I went to Italy. While I was looking around in a souvenir shop there (it is a duty-free ship :) I noticed a bottle opener that looked very Tessa esque (lol) More recently, the Italian store in Shinjuku was selling imported Italian stuff and I saw the same bottle opener. It was super expensive (lol) Needless to say I didn't buy it.

My only regret at this point is probably the fact that I was not able to get these stories out in a proper Red Earth book (lol) The grown-up world can be a pretty harsh place sometimes. *weak laugh* Dear Capcom, please release Red Earth for a console. I want to play it more! *nudge nudge*

IN THE FINAL CHAPTER, THIS IMAGE OF TESSA IS MY FAVORITE. YOU'RE PROBABLY ASKING WHY (LOL) I JUST THINK I DREW HER FACIAL EXPRESSION WELL.

Mami Itou



Special thanks go out to Shiki Kashimada for helping me out whenever I asked

SALVATION!
RUMBLE
OFFER YOURSELF UP TO MY MERCY
I OFFER ABSOLUTE
VAMPIRE SAVIOR
MAGIA
TERRIT'ORIO

RUMBLE
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
THE NEW VIEW FROM YOUR CASTLE WINDOWS IS STUNNING
IS IT NOT?
I DO HOPE IT IS...
TO YOUR LIKING
GLOW
WHO ARE YOU?
STRANGE
I DO NOT RECALL INVITING YOU INTO MY CASTLE.

!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, DEMITRI MAXIMOFF
AN UNFORTU-NATE TRUTH MY BEAUTIFUL LADY..
TAK TAK TAK TAK
I AM THE ONE WHO INVITED YOU HERE
ARE YOU NOT OVER-JOYED? YOU ARE ONE OF THE CHOSEN FEW

DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE
I... DO NO MORE A PART OF BLINDLY FOLLOWING THE ORDERS OF SOMEONE WHO LACKS THE COMMON DECENCY TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES
I ALSO DO NOT TAKE KINDLY TO RUDE VISITORS
SQUEEZE
YOU SEEM TO HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU "INVITED" ME HERE
CRUSH
CRUSH
BOOT
I OFFER YOU MY BLOOD IN CELEBRATION
YOUR SOUL HAS BEEN DEEMED VALUABLE
YOU ARE A NOBLE VAMPIRE WHO INCREASES HIS POWER BY CONSUMING THE BLOOD OF OTHERS
COME
DRINK MY BLOOD
TAKING A PART OF MY SOUL INTO YOURS WILL HELP TO CALM YOUR SPIRIT
I'M AFRAID I MUST DECLINE

I KNOW ALL WHO RESIDE IN MAKAI
VERY FEW WIELD POWER ENOUGH TO TRANSPORT AN ENTIRE CASTLE BETWEEN DIMENSIONS
WHAT
ARE YOU FROM ENGLAND OR DO YOU WORK FOR OZONE!?
FINALE ROSSO
SINK
SINKING
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD AT LEAST KNOW MY NAME
I'M HURT DEMITRI

ALLOW ME TO OFFER YOU A PROPER GREETING DEMITRI MAXIMOFF
WELCOME TO MY REALM...
MAGIA TERRITORIO!
JEDAH DOHMA!?
...!!
GRRRR
AFTER MY FALL OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU THROUGH OZOMUS CONSCIOUSNESS
IT SEEM YOU HAVE BEEN UP TO NO GOOD
HOW VERY AMUSING INDEED!

END

I CAN SEE THE EVIL THAT NORMAL HUMANS CANNOT..
VAMPIRE HUNTER
INSTINCT
I CAN FEEL IT WHEN IT DRAWS NEAR..
I CAN SMELL IT..
ALL OF THE EVIL IN THIS WORLD, AND THE CREATURES FORMED OF IT, ARE APPARENT TO ME..
FOR IT LIVES WITHIN ME, AS WELL

CHATTER
A HUNTER!
HAVE YOU HEARD?
DARKSTALKERS ARE BEING CUT DOWN LEFT AND RIGHT IN THE HUMAN REALM RECENTLY
CHATTER
HOW DISTURBING
TRULY?
IS HE HUMAN?
I HEARD HE SHOWS NO MERCY!
IT'S A HUNTER!
A HUMAN WITHOUT MERCY!
A DARK HUNTER
HE CARVES UP ALL DARK-STALKERS IN A BLINK OF AN EYE!
A MOMENT'S HESITATION WILL LEAD TO DEATH!
WE MUST BE WARY
TAK
TAK
WE MUST ASK LADY MORRIGAN TO RESTRICT HER LEISURELY JAUNTS INTO THE HUMAN REALM FOR NOW
TAK
TAK
OUR LORD HAS NOT FORBIDDEN HER FROM DOING SO BUT WE CERTAINLY CANNOT TAKE THE RISK OF HER BEING HARMED
I'VE HEARD! HOW SAD THAT THE HUMAN REALM IS NOT AS SAFE AS IT USED TO BE!
IT SOUNDS LIKE A WILD RUMOR BUT THIS TALK OF A DARKHUNTER IS QUITE WIDESPREAD AMONG THE DEMONS OF THE LOWER RANKS

I TRUST THAT OUR LADY WOULD NEVER ALLOW HERSELF TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SUCH A MESS
SHE
KREAK
MY LADY...
!!
MY LADY! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?

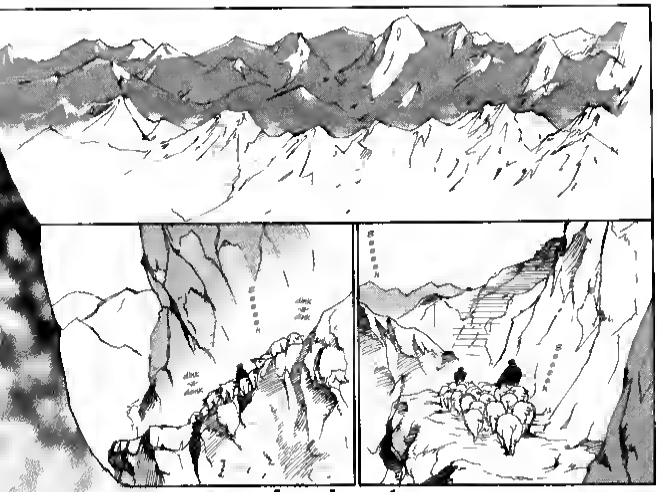
IS THAT A HUMAN...!?
EVEN YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING HUMANS INTO THIS CASTLE, LADY MORRIGAN!
HEY!
QUIET!
THERE'S NO REASON TO GET ALL WORKED UP
THIS ONE'S SOUL HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT TO ITS FINAL REST
I JUST WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING NEW
THERE IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU REGARDING THE HUMAN REALM, MY LADY
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? DON'T YOU HEAR THE WILD BEATING OF MY HEART? I JUST HAD THE MOST LOVELY EXPERIENCE WHILE VISITING THE HUMAN REALM!
WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT SOMEONE HUNTING THE DARKSTALKERS THERE
WHERE YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY IS CONCERNED WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION AND
YES!
THAT'S HIM!!

EEESEEE
AS EVER, HOT AND WET
-MOAN- JUST THINKING ABOUT HIM GETS ME ALL EXCITED!!
THAT'S THE MAN I MET!
WHAT'S WRONG? ISN'T IT A THRILL TO BE DOING THIS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, RIGHT IN FRONT OF A COLUMBARIUM?
Giggle
ARE YOU SCARED?
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO giggle
YOU'RE NOT TO BE OUTDONE
HOW COULD I SAY NO WITH SUCH A SEXY WOMAN IN FRONT OF ME?
SNAP

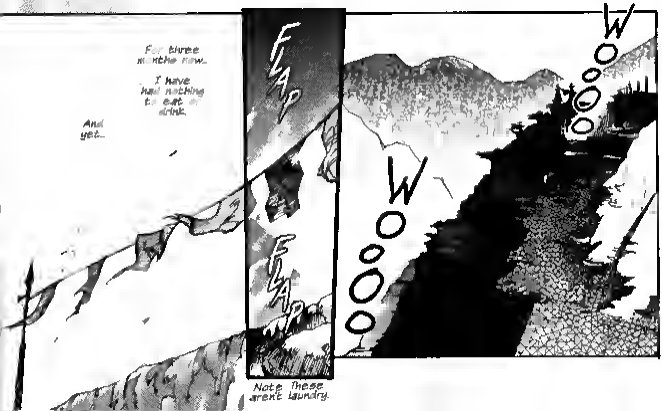
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE
DARKSTALKER!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? WE'RE BUSY HERE
CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE INTERRUPTING SOMETHING? GET LOST!
WHY DON'T YOU GO GET SOME FASHION ADVICE?
I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU.
I AM HERE FOR THE WOMAN.
LEAVE NOW, AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED!
RUN
GRRR!
YOU ARE ONE CREEPY DUDE!
SO YOU'RE HIM...?
THE DARK-HUNTER I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT?

EVIL SEDUCTRESS! YOUR DAYS OF LURING UNSUSPECTING MEN ARE AT AN END!!
!!!
FLOOF
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOW RARE!!
WHAT... HE'S A DHAMPIR!
I HAVE COME TO PERFORM YOUR REQUIEM!
FLOOF
NOT TO MENTION HIS EYES..!
THEY'RE SO..

MY WHOLE BODY IS THROBBING!
JUST LOOKING INTO THOSE EYES OF HIS SENDS A SHIVER DOWN TO MY CORE.
HIS EYES WERE SCREAMING WITH A SOUL-WRENCHING AGONY!
WELL
WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE SUCH A PREDICAMENT WITHOUT INJURY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD HAVE DONE IF YOU HAD BEEN HURT
Not only that, you took the time to seduce another human before returning. ♪ ♪ Sigh.
OF COURSE I DID!
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
BUT HOW LUCKY AM I TO HAVE FOUND MYSELF SUCH AN ENCHANTING PREY!
A GORGEOUS DHAMPIR
I LOOK FORWARD TO DESTROYING HIM LITTLE BY LITTLE. DRAWING HIM INTO AN INESCAPABLE MADNESS BIT BY BIT Giggle
WITH MY LOVE
END



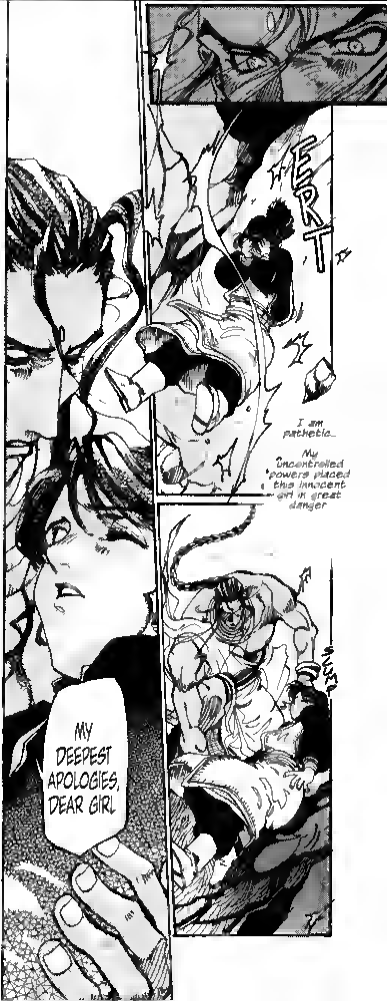
vampire hunter



It seems the mercy of death is not an option granted to me
WOOOO
Am I an existence that has been removed from the natural cycle of reincarnation?
Dear Buddha... I have followed your guiding words for over ten years now.
GROAN
But it seems they will not, unless a tainted creature like myself
Why can I not control this curse's power?
KRAK
KRAK
TUMBLE

I COME FROM THE VILLAGE OF DHYLEC, BELOW
Sadness
PLEASE, YOU MUST EAT AT THIS RATE, I FEAR YOU WILL DIE..
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS
Offers bowl
SIR PILGRIM..
I do not deserve your compassion.
AIEEE!
!?
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

MURMUR


I am pathetic...
My uncontrolled powers placed this innocent girl in great danger
MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES, DEAR GIRL

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY MAKE AMENDS TO THIS POOR GIRL?
SHE SUSTAINED NO PHYSICAL INJURY, BUT SHE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THE SHOCK
IF I CANNOT EVEN KEEP ONE GIRL SAFE
I CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT WORTH MY LIFE COULD HAVE
SIR PILGRIM
THERE IS NO WAY FOR ME TO KNOW THE BURDEN YOUR SOUL CARRIES WITH IT. BUT I CAN BE CERTAIN THAT YOUR KIND WORDS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
TO HEAL ANY TRAUMA THIS GIRL MAY HAVE SUFFERED
Could that be true..?
IF YOU ARE TOO HARSH WITH YOURSELF, YOU WILL ONLY CAUSE UNNECESSARY HARM TO YOUR SOUL
HERE WILL YOU HAVE SOME BUTTER TEA?

I can hear someone calling to me

A voice ?

Hello !?
I hear the same voice I heard last night
THE DEMON NOW RESTS HERE
THE OLD LORE TELLS OF A HIGH PRIEST OF ONCE RULED OVER THIS AREA HE CAPTURED A DEMON THAT WAS HARRASSING THE PEOPLE

HELLO-!?
HELLO-!?
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
HELLO-!?
HELLO-!?
I promise never to play tricks on humans again. So please please!
weeping
RRG
RRG
LIFT
YOU THERE! YOU CAN HEAR ME. CAN'T YOU? YOU'RE NOT HUMAN RIGHT?
YOU HAVE SOME DEMON BLOOD IN YOU DON'T YA? YEAH I CAN FEEL THE POWER WITHIN YOU PLEASE I'M BEGGING YOU MAN YOU GOTTA HELP ME OUT
JUST REMOVE THE PRAYER BEADS THAT ARE KEEPING ME SEALED HERE

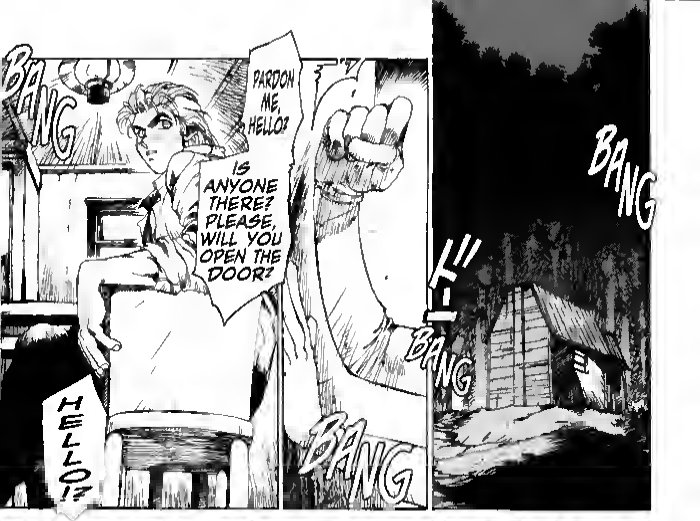
AHH, THAT FEELS GREAT!
BEING STUCK IN A MASS OF STONE FOR A FEW CENTURIES REALLY DOES A NUMBER OF YOUR LOWER BACK, LET ME TELL YA!
HOP
ARGH, THOSE TRICKY LITTLE BAS-TARDS!
DONK
DONK
I SWEAR I'LL TRACK THEM ALL DOWN AND BLEED 'EM GOOD!
DID YOU KNOW THAT MY OWN SO-CALLED "BUDDIES" GAVE ME UP TO THAT OLD PRIEST TO SAVE THEIR OWN HIDES!?
I SEE
SO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST YOUR OWN KIND, DO YOU? IT SEEMS WE SHARE A COMMON SENTIMENT
!
THAT'S IT!
LEAP
WHAT DO YA SAY WE MAKE A GENTLE-MAN'S AGREE-MENT, PAL?
Don't touch me
IT SEEMS WE BOTH WANT THE SAME THING SO WHY DON'T WE WORK TOGETHER?
WITH YOU AND ME WORKING TOGETHER, HUNTING DOWN THOSE NASTY DEMONS WILL BE EASY AS PIE!

Hunting our own kind?
I had never considered that possibility before...
VERY WELL
I MAY HAVE NEED OF YOUR POWERS
IN EXCHANGE YOU MUST KEEP THAT LOOSE MOUTH OF YOURS SHUT
IF YOU DO NOT, I WILL RETURN YOU TO YOUR SEALED STATE.
AS LONG AS I HOLD THESE PRAYER BEADS, I AM YOUR MASTER, AM I NOT?
You're clever one, aren't ya?
IT'S A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT
clatter
This chance encounter offered the first steps towards having a purpose in my life
that meeting this demonic buddy was the return ticket for me

As outrageous as this pairing may seem...
I found my purpose in a lone little girl.
deep within those eyes
I will do whatever it takes to keep the tragedies of the past from repeating themselves.
SPLASH
But it was an entirely different encounter that actually solidified my convictions
END

I had this dream a long time ago long before I knew what fate had in store for me
MY POOR, DARLING BOY...
At the time I didn't understand the meaning of the words that the woman spoke to me
BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT YET, DO YOU?
HEIR TO A CURSED BLOODLINE
I can't explain it but I remember feeling an overwhelming fear when I looked upon her
I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE YOU WHEN I WAS PASSING BY SO I THOUGHT I'D DROP IN TO SAY HELLO
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU SO THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID
NO MATTER
VAMPIRE ENCOUNTER UNDER THE NEW MOON
Was it a NIGHTMARE?

The dream ended with the woman kissing me, saying.


BANG
PARDON ME, HELLO?
IS ANYONE THERE? PLEASE, WILL YOU OPEN THE DOOR?
HELLO!?
BANG
BANG
BANG

SHNK
Who is that?
The villagers wouldn't come out this far at this time of night...
Will I be okay?

DUN
DUN
Oh..
A... who is this outrageously dressed woman..?
A party dress.?
MAY I HELP YOU..?
YES I AM SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE FOUND A HOME SO DEEP INSIDE THE WOODS
I WAS TAKING A WALK THROUGH THE WOODS AND GOT TURNED AROUND SOMEHOW
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE DANGEROUS FOR A YOUNG LADY
TO BE WALKING AROUND SO LATE AT NIGHT, MISS ?

MORRIGAN
MORRIGAN AENSLAND
MAY I SIT HERE?
I AM EXHAUSTED FROM ALL THAT WALKING
OF COURSE, MISS MORRIGAN
THIS FOREST IS LARGER THAN IT APPEARS EVEN THE LOCAL VILLAGERS WILL NOT STRAY INTO THE FOREST AFTER DARK. DID THEY NOT WARN YOU?
NO, BUT...
WHAT COULD BE SO "DANGEROUS" ABOUT THIS FOREST? IS THERE SOME WILD BEAST THAT ATTACKS PEOPLE AT NIGHT?
!!
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT THIS FOREST WAS MUCH DEEPER THAN I EXPECTED. I WAS TERRIFIED!

I'M QUITE CONFIDENT ABOUT MY SENSE OF DIRECTION BUT...
Sigh
WITH THE NEW MOON EVERYTHING IS SO DARK THAT I DOUBT I COULD FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE VILLAGE
That's it.
SO ANYWAY UHM...
DO YOU THINK I COULD BORROW YOUR PHONE?
I'D LIKE TO LET MY FRIENDS KNOW THAT I'M SAFE
It doesn't look like I'll be getting back there tonight
SORRY
BUT I DON'T HAVE A PHONE HERE
OH!
This madness
tonight is the new moon
I can feel it's not ring inside me
That is the only reason I have not killed this woman already
I'm just glad I can control it for now

NOW THAT I LOOK AROUND YOUR PLACE I DO NOTICE THAT YOU LIVE A VERY SIMPLE LIFE...
IT'S ALMOST UNNATURAL HOW BARE THIS PLACE IS!
I'D THINK IT WOULD BE RATHER INCONVENIENT TO LIVE IN A HOME LIKE THIS
WHY DO YOU LIVE OUT HERE IN THE FOREST, ALL ALONE?
Mutter
Mutter
But what am I to do? I don't want my friends to be worried about me
This is bad.
OH... WELL...
I'M TRAINING TO BE A MARTIAL ARTIST SO I NEED TO HAVE A LOT OF SPACE
I SEE
HOW INTERESTING
I can't let her suspect anything.

But... it's not like I can just kick her out into the night...
Such a weird lady to run into so late at night!
On the other hand I can't possibly let her stay the night with me
Purchased a looong time ago
I wonder if this is still safe to drink? I guess we'll find out...
Doesn't actually drink tea
I'D LOVE A CUP THANK YOU!
OH!
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP OF TEA? I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TOO FANCY, BUT...
GRIN
There's something I can't quite put my finger on...

The closest house is over two miles from here...
TAK
She says she's here from Glasgow to visit a friend
It's true that she has a strong Scottish accent...
She said she was just out for a walk to burn off some excitement from a party they had, but... why would a young woman like her stray so deep into the forest at night?
Something's not right...
SAY I JUST REALIZED
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I'M JON TALBAIN

DO YOU OWN A DOG? I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THAT FOR A WHILE...
HUH? NO. WHY?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT BUT... IT'S LIKE I CAN SMELL AN ANIMAL? LIKE THERE'S ONE LIVING NEARBY
LUB-DUB!!
I swear I've seen this woman somewhere before but where?
OH, HOW CHARMING! SUCH A MASCULINE NAME!
I'M SORRY! FORGET I SAID THAT!!
Flustered
I'M VERY SENSITIVE TO THE SCENTS OF MEN AND BEASTS
THANK YOU FOR THE TEA.

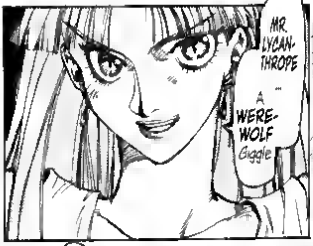
TUSSLE
TAK TAK
TAK TAK TAK TAK
KREAK
UP...

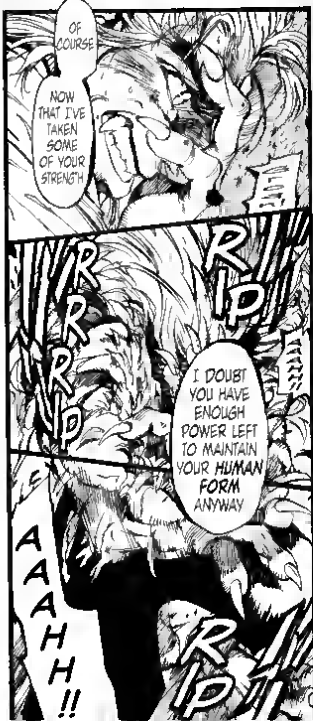
I FEEL MUCH CALMER NOW THANKS TO YOU
Er... HEY_
TAP
YOU ARE GOING TO LET ME STAY HERE TONIGHT AREN'T YOU?
She's seducing me!
WELL I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE
THAT'S TRUE

YOU WOULD FEEL TERRIBLY GUILTY IF I GOT ATTACKED BY A WOLF OR SOMETHING BECAUSE YOU KICKED ME OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WOULDN'T YOU?
!!
I knew it! Something's not right about this woman!
Does she know what I am?
WHAT A SOLID CHEST
YOU SAID YOU ARE A MARTIAL ARTIST, RIGHT? YOU HAVE SUCH BEAUTIFULLY SCULPTED MUSCLES AND THE SCENT OF A WILD BEAST ON YOU
Shes not a normal lady at all
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF ♥
I COULD GIVE YOU THE MOST AMAZING DREAM

SHOVE
GET OFF ME!!
G...
GRRR
KRASH
GAH! G-GASP!
GASP! HUFF HUFF GASP!

I JUST HELPED MYSELF TO SOME OF YOUR
EXCESS LIFE ENERGY, THAT'S ALL
YOU! WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME!?
SIGH
I'M BORED OF THIS LITTLE CHARADE NOW
OFF!
I SOMETIMES WISH I HAD A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE. BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?
ウ…ウ…


MR. LYCANTHROPE ... A WEREWOLF Giggle


OF COURSE
NOW THAT I'VE TAKEN SOME OF YOUR STRENGTH
I DOUBT YOU HAVE ENOUGH POWER LEFT TO MAINTAIN YOUR HUMAN FORM ANYWAY
RIP
RRRIP
AAAHH!!

WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME WHO YOU REALLY ARE?
GLOTE
IT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH TO HOLD EVERYTHING IN LIKE THAT

YOU……!!

LUNGE!
WHO ARE YOU!?
YOU'RE NO HUMAN! I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT KILLING DEMONS!
GIGGLE

!?
WHA...
BATSH!!

SU...
He's blushing!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN OUT THIS WAY AND I HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS A RUMOR ABOUT A WEREWOLF LIVING OUT IN THIS FOREST
DON'T YOU KNOW A SUCCUBUS WHEN YOU SEE ONE? SILLY WOLFY
I SIMPLY HAD TO COME AND SEE FOR MYSELF!
WE'VE MET ONCE BEFORE YOU AND I DO YOU REMEMBER?

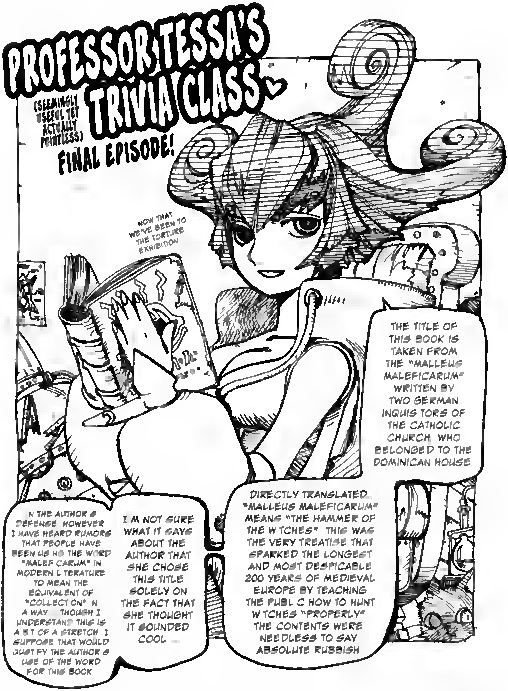
IN YOUR DREAMS
Oh!
CHARGE
SHUT UP! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!
SLICE
SLICE
Heee Heee
YOUR KISS STILL TASTES THE SAME AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! -Giggle-
A LITTLE SHY WITH THE GIRLS, ARE WE?

ZOOM
SHADOW BLADE!
WAM
YIPE!
HA
SH
WAM

I WAS JUST BORED AND NEEDED SOMETHING TO DO ♥
THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A FUN DISTRAC TION!
I'LL COME TO VISIT YOU AGAIN PERHAPS DURING A FULL MOON NEXT TIME!
DON'T GET ME WRONG I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT
THEN WHY DID YOU COME? ARE YOU HERE TO LAUGH AT ME? TO MOCK THIS CURSED FORM OF MINE!?
YOU BITCH!!

Is this a continuation of the nightmare I had as a child...?

I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO HANDLE A REAL WOMAN ♡
I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THE MORE WILD YOU..
Because of her..
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
GRRR
ブルロア
BYE BYE, TALBAN!
I doubt my nightmare will be ending any time soon


PROFESSOR TESSA'S TRIVIA CLASS
(SEEMINGLY USEFUL YET ACTUALLY POINTLESS)
FINAL EPISODE!
NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN TO THE TORTURE EXHIBITION
THE TITLE OF THIS BOOK IS TAKEN FROM THE "MALLEUS MALEFICARUM" WRITTEN BY TWO GERMAN INQUISITORS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHO BELONGED TO THE DOMINICAN HOUSE
DIRECTLY TRANSLATED, "MALLEUS MALEFICARUM" MEANS "THE HAMMER OF THE WITCHES". THIS WAS THE VERY TREATISE THAT SPARKED THE LONGEST AND MOST DESPICABLE 200 YEARS OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE BY TEACHING THE PUBLIC HOW TO HUNT WITCHES "PROPERLY". THE CONTENTS WERE NEEDLESS TO SAY ABSOLUTE RUBBISH
I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT THE AUTHOR THAT SHE CHOSE THIS TITLE SOLELY ON THE FACT THAT SHE THOUGHT IT SOUNDED COOL...
IN THE AUTHOR'S DEFENSE HOWEVER I HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN USING THE WORD "MALEFICARUM" IN MODERN LITERATURE TO MEAN THE EQUIVALENT OF "COLLECTION" IN A WAY... THOUGH I UNDERSTAND THIS IS A BIT OF A STRETCH I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD JUST FLY THE AUTHOR'S USE OF THE WORD FOR THIS BOOK

MALEFICARUM

MAMI ITOU

COMMENT②

To me, the Darkstalkers series of games is like I don't even know how to put it into words. I think I'm more crazy about Darkstalkers than I am about Street Fighter. Although like any respectable gamer of that period (? lol) I got into F ghting games through Street Fighter II. But I have to admit that the "best of" Fighting games for me is Darkstalkers 2... more specifically, Morrigan! I love her. She's the best! (lol)

It's kind of embarrassing to have this dig of space for a spiel from me, but I feel very fortunate to have all of the different Darkstalkers series stored there. I is compiled into one book like this! Though I'm Pael a bit, find for the last Earth series (heehee). I mean the cover art is of Morrigan after all. I'm just so happy right now. I feel like I'm going to die. But the more happy I fal myself to be the more guilty I feel towards Pa's Earth. (cry). The "Darkstalkers story as were just little things I put together on a whim. Actually so I feel a little sad that I was offered such a great opportunity such as this. Anyway... Donovan! I love him! But oh, Morrigan! (lol) Morrigan will always be MY number one! (I really need to shut up now.) Capcom, you are amazing. Never before has one company created a multiple characters each just as the My weirdness to the core like this. Thank you, Capcom. Thank you so much! I want to shout it from the rooftops!! (Now I'm really just embarrassing myself.)

With the Darkstalkers series, the games go without saying, but I also fell in love with the world itself. I've always loved monster stories (?) and demon world type stuff, every since I was a kid. (lol) Given all this space to say whatever I wish, all I can think of saying is I love this series. That's about it..... I am ashamed at my lack of vocabulary...

So anyway, to those of you who saw Morrigan on the cover and decide to give this book a read, and to those of you who spent the time to read these silly ramblings of mine... Thank you so much. I really, truly appreciate it. I probably should have done my little spiel in the form of a short manga, but I'm not really good at those, so you'll have to pardon Me for filling a whole page with my idiotic scribblings. Teehee...

Mami Itou
AUTUMN 1997

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AN ALL-NEW MANGA SERIES BY ITOU MAMI
COMING NOVEMBER 2010
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